

In the Claims:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c) and the revised amendment practice effective July 30, 2003, please cancel claim 18 and amend claims 1, 9, 17 and 19, as indicated herein. A complete listing of all the claims in the application is provided immediately below.

COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for interconnecting customer premises equipment with a digital subscriber line (DSL) at a location remote from a telephone company central office, the apparatus comprising

a housing comprising

a base defining an interior cavity and adapted to be operatively coupled with termination equipment located within the interior of a telecommunications enclosure through an exterior wall of the telecommunications enclosure at the location remote from the telephone company central office; and

a cover movably attached to the base and adapted to be opened and closed thereon; and

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at least one xDSL/POTS splitter positioned within the interior cavity defined by the base to permit access to the xDSL/POTS splitter without entering the telecommunications enclosure, the xDSL/POTS splitter combining a POTS signal and a data signal from the telephone company central office into a combined signal on the DSL and separating the combined signal on the DSL from the customer premises equipment into the POTS signal and the data signal.

2. (original) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the xDSL/POTS splitter is provided on a circuit card having a board edge connector and wherein the apparatus further comprises a back-plane circuit board positioned within the interior cavity defined by the base and having at least one card socket connector for receiving the board edge connector of the circuit card so that the xDSL/POTS splitter is in electrical communication with the back-plane circuit board.

3. (original) The apparatus according to claim 2 further comprising at least one wire connector positioned within the interior cavity defined by the base and electrically connected to the back-plane circuit board so that the wire connector is in electrical communication with the xDSL/POTS splitter through the back-plane circuit board.
4. (original) The apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the at least one wire connector is selected from the group consisting of a screw terminal and an insulation displacement contact (IDC) terminal.
5. (original) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the base has at least one opening formed therethrough for receiving a conduit connecting the housing to the telecommunications enclosure at the location remote from the telephone company central office.
- a 6. (original) The apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the POTS signal is provided on a first telephone line from the telephone company central office and the data signal is provided on a second telephone line from the telephone company central office and wherein the conduit provides a wire-way for routing the DSL, the first telephone line, and the second telephone line between the telecommunications enclosure and the housing.
7. (original) The apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the conduit sealingly engages the base and wherein the cover is hingedly attached to and sealingly engages the base such that the housing is substantially rainproof when the cover is closed on the base.
8. (original) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the xDSL/POTS splitter comprises at least one of a low-pass filter for passing the POTS signal and a high-pass filter for passing the data signal.
9. (currently amended) A housing for interconnecting customer premises equipment with a digital subscriber line (DSL) at a location remote from a telephone company central office, the housing comprising

a base defining an interior cavity;
a cover movably attached to the base and adapted to be opened and closed thereon; and
at least one xDSL/POTS splitter positioned within the interior cavity defined by the base,
the xDSL/POTS splitter combining a POTS signal and a data signal from the telephone company
central office into a combined signal on the DSL and separating the combined signal on the DSL
from the customer premises equipment into the POTS signal and the data signal;

wherein the xDSL/POTS splitter is operatively coupled with termination equipment located
within the interior of a telecommunications enclosure located at the location remote from the
telephone company central office; and

wherein the housing is attached to an exterior wall of a telecommunications enclosure to
permit access to the xDSL/POTS splitter without entering the telecommunications enclosure.

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10. (original) The housing according to claim 9 wherein the xDSL/POTS splitter is provided
on a circuit card having a board edge connector and wherein the apparatus further comprises a
back-plane circuit board positioned within the interior cavity defined by the base and having at least
one card socket connector for receiving the board edge connector of the circuit card so that the
xDSL/POTS splitter is in electrical communication with the back-plane circuit board.

11. (original) The apparatus according to claim 10 further comprising at least one wire
connector positioned within the interior cavity defined by the base and electrically connected to the
back-plane circuit board so that the wire connector is in electrical communication with the
xDSL/POTS splitter through the back-plane circuit board.

12. (original) The apparatus according to claim 11 wherein the at least one wire connector is
selected from the group consisting of a screw terminal and an insulation displacement contact
(IDC) terminal.

13. (original) The apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the base has at least one opening
formed therethrough for receiving a conduit connecting the housing to a telecommunications
enclosure at the location remote from the telephone company central office.

14. (original) The apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the POTS signal is provided on a first telephone line from the telephone company central office and the data signal is provided on a second telephone line from the telephone company central office and wherein the conduit provides a wire-way for routing the DSL, the first telephone line, and the second telephone line between the telecommunications enclosure and the housing.

15. (original) The apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the conduit sealingly engages the base and wherein the cover is hingedly attached to and sealingly engages the base such that the housing is substantially rainproof when the cover is closed on the base.

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16. (original) The apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the xDSL/POTS splitter comprises at least one of a low-pass filter for passing the POTS signal and a high-pass filter for passing the data signal.

17. (currently amended) A method for interconnecting customer premises equipment with a digital subscriber line (DSL) at a location remote from a telephone company central office, the method comprising

providing an xDSL/POTS splitter within a housing attached to an exterior wall of a telecommunications enclosure at the location remote from the telephone company central office;
operatively coupling the xDSL/POTS splitter with termination equipment located within the interior of the telecommunications enclosure;

routing a first telephone line comprising a POTS signal from the interior of the telecommunications enclosure to the xDSL/POTS splitter;

routing a second telephone line comprising a data signal from the interior of the telecommunications enclosure to the xDSL/POTS splitter;

combining the POTS signal and the data signal using the xDSL/POTS splitter to create a combined signal on the DSL comprising the POTS signal and the data signal; and

routing the DSL between the xDSL/POTS splitter and the customer premises equipment.

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18. (canceled).
19. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~18~~ 17 comprising the further steps of providing a back-plane circuit board disposed within the housing; and electrically connecting the xDSL/POTS splitter to the back-plane circuit board.
20. (original) The method according to claim 19 comprising the further steps of providing at least one wire connector disposed within the housing; and electrically connecting the at least one wire connector to the back-plane circuit board so that the at least one wire connector is electrically connected to the xDSL/POTS splitter through the back-plane circuit board.